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COMIC SHOP NEWS™

SHADOWLAW

Laying Down the Shadowlaw

Mechs versus mechs... nothing readers haven't seen before. But Catholic Church mechs doing battle with vampire mechs... now *that's* something you don't see every day.

It *is*, however, something you'll find in the pages of ***Shadowlaw***, an original graphic novel by *Brandon Easton* with art by *Scott Kester & Ryo Kawakami.*

This isn't just a mech-warrior slugfest, however, as Easton explained to ***CSN***. ***"Shadowlaw*** takes place a few centuries from now, where the Catholic Church is the dominant global political body," Easton explained. "The government is a theocratic technocracy and they maintain military dominance through the use of their giant mech armors.

"Our story opens as that society is on the verge of political revolution, and because of a series of events, the biggest secret in their history will be unveiled. There was a global war in their past that resulted in a dark deal with some truly evil beings. The main character, Rictor Caesaro, is a soldier who kills his commanding officer and ends up in a concentration camp that turns out to be a feeding zone for a race of Vampire lords.

"Caesaro, a mech battle suit pilot, finds himself in a tragic situation. Rictor is a man whose parents were killed by government troops during what was believed to have been a botched raid. He was eventually adopted by the Chancellor of the New Earth Alliance (NEA). In a bizarre twist, Rictor would be indoctrinated in the ways of the people who murdered his parents.

"As the story develops, he begins to see the patterns behind his own life and the unseen hands that have controlled his destiny. Rictor's path is that of a man in search of his own destiny and true freedom from control. He wants nothing more than to be able to make his own decisions free of manipulation."

This story blends religion and the supernatural in a distinctive way. Exactly what is the role of the church in this story? "The Church is a global stabilizing force, much like it was during the Holy Roman Empire. They aren't 'good' but they also aren't 'evil' as we would define it. They exist for the purpose of centralizing political and economic power and using the word of God to effectively control the human population."

Easton is avoiding many of the popular culture vampire stereotypes, offering a very different take. "Clearly, I'm not a fan of the ***Twilight*** kind of vampire story," Easton said. "I feel that it panders to young female readers on such a dishonest level. It trivializes love and puts the concept of relationships on purely superficial terms. For a long time, the execution of vampire stories have been in the context of what *Anne Rice* did thirty years ago and I never wanted to continue with that kind of narrative.

The vampires in ***Shadowlaw*** are more cybernetic in nature. The back story of why they appear they way that they do is tied to the lack of resources (i.e. human blood) and how they had to replace their organic parts to extend their life span. This is one of the main components of the conspiracy that ties the story together."

What led humanity to the dystopian future in which they find themselves as ***Shadowlaw*** opens? "There isn't one overriding factor that put humanity in the boat they're in at the beginning of the story," Easton explained. I'd say a slavish devotion to materialism, an unwillingness to engage the political process with a logical, critical mind and the normal ways an under-educated population is manipulated by the power elite.

"However, human history has shown that people will only tolerate oppression for a finite period, be it ten years or five hundred. The opening pages of ***Shadowlaw*** take place during an urban pacification mission to stifle a riot at a food distribution center. The lower classes have begun to wake up as the fabric of social control starts to fray at the edges."

It's all too common for popular culture to cast the church and organized religion in the role of villains and tyrants nowadays; what's the role of religion in ***Shadowlaw?*** "I was raised Roman Catholic and I credit that upbringing for my work ethic and moral belief system. ***Shadowlaw*** doesn't criticize religion outright, but it *does* cast a critical eye at how the people at the top use religion to control the masses.

"I believe that most religious organizations have the best interests of their followers in mind. But, just like with governments, all it takes is a small cabal at the very top to twist things into a negative direction. I get a little tired of seeing stories with the core theme of
religion = evil.' The real world is *much* more complex and nuanced than that."

Easton hopes that ***Shadowlaw*** will be the start of something much larger. "I designed ***Shadowlaw*** to be a large story in the vein of *Frank Herbert's Dune* series. I won't put myself on his level," Easton said with a laugh, "but I love the world-building he did, and I have a universe than is as expansive as what he created.

"The beauty of the ***Shadowlaw*** world is that the story can go thousands of years forward or backward. I plan on doing at least one other graphic novel following up on Rictor's story ,and at least one other story showing how the vampires consolidated power over the centuries.

"Another aspect of the ***Shadowlaw*** universe that isn't fully explored in this graphic novel is the space exploration that the New Earth Alliance (the government in the series) is doing and how there are plenty of stories to be told off-world. I can't wait to show readers and new fans what I've been developing."

Shadowlaw isn't the only project keeping Easton busy right now. "I'm also a writer for WB Animation's new ***Thundercats*** series, I'm working on two graphic novel properties as well. The first is an action-adventure series called ***Miles Away*** that I'm co-writing with ***Star Trek: Enterprise*** star *Anthony Montgomery;* the other is a steampunk reimagining of the Robin Hood mythos with a new company called Lion Forge Entertainment.

"I'm also working on my own original property called ***Dominion's Light*** that is a sci-fi, action, fantasy epic that's like a cross between ***Final Fantasy, Akira,*** and ***Warhammer;*** that should be out in 2013 or so. And I also produce a podcast for aspiring comic book and sci-fi writers called ***Writing For Rookies***—anyone who's interested can easily find it with a Google search."

Shadowlaw (SEP110748), a $14.95 original graphic novel published by Arcana Studios, is scheduled for early January release.

by Cliff Biggers

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

COMIC SHOP NEWSARAMA

Produced by *Comic Shop News* in cooperation with *newsarama.com*

Joe Simon Passes

Comics legend *Joe Simon*, one of the last surviving greats from the beginnings of the Golden Age and the man who co-created such incredible characters as Captain America, the Fly, and the Sandman, passed away on December 14th at the age of 98 after a brief illness. Along with *Jack Kirby*, Simon was the other half of the historic Simon & Kirby creative team that brought an unprecedented vitality, energy, and creativity to comics (pictured below, Kirby is seated).

Both an artist and a writer, Simon worked for virtually every major publisher during his epic career, although his work for Marvel and DC are the best-known. Not only did Simon & Kirby help to shape the superhero comics field, but they also helped to popularize—and in some cases, create—such comics genres as romance, Westerns, dream-based fantasy, crime, horror, and science fiction.

In recent years, editor *Steve Saffel* worked closely with writer-artist Simon to prepare comprehensive collections of Simon & Kirby material; more recently, Fantagraphics announced an unauthorized collection of Simon & Kirby romance stories (which led to Saffel's Titan Books romance collection being put on hold). "I will always be proud of the fact that Joe got to see these books and got to see the overwhelmingly positive response they got from both fans and fellow professionals," Saffel said.

"Together *Joe Simon* and *Jack Kirby* created one of the most iconic superheroes in comic book history and losing Joe is definitely the end of an era," *Kevin Feige*, president of Marvel Studios, said.

"*Joe Simon* was a true legend in the comic book industry. So much of what we are today is owed to him and his amazing creativity," DC Entertainment co-publisher *Dan DiDio* said. "We appreciate all of his contributions to DC Comics and the industry as a whole, both on the page and behind the scenes."

"We lost another of the Titans... A creative virtuoso, *Joe Simon* will be best known for co-creating Captain America with legendary artist *Jack Kirby*, but his many contributions to DC Comics, both as a writer and an editor, are legion and will continue to be cherished by longtime fans, this one included," DC co-publisher *Jim Lee* added.

CSNsider

• Artist *Eduardo Barreto*, best known to comics fans for his 1980s work on ***The New Teen Titans*** and to comic strip fans for his recent work on ***Judge Parker*** and ***The Phantom***, died at the age of 57; while there were few details regarding his death at press-time, it is known that he contracted meningitis last year, forcing him to leave ***Judge Parker***, and there is speculation that complications from that meningitis might have led to his death. His son Diego is also a comics artist, while his daughter Andrea is a colorist.

"With his impeccable draftsmanship and attention to nuance and detail, *Eduardo Barreto* was a true artist's artist," DC Entertainment co-publisher *Jim Lee* said. "A mainstay of DC Comics, he was one of the key artists during the 1980s who not only helped define the look and feel of the DC Universe, but got me hooked on the ***Teen Titans***. His incredible work and vision will be missed."

• *Sam Humphries & Ramon Perez* have been tapped by Marve to adapt *Edgar Rice Burroughs'* John Carter novel ***The Gods of Mars*** in a five-part miniseries.

• DC has cancelled all orders for ***Justice League: Generation Lost Volume 1 TP***, and the title will not be resolicited. This most likely means no plans for trade paperback editions of the other volumes in this series, either, so grab the hardcovers while you can!

• ***Uncanny X-Force: Dark Angel Premium HC Book 2***, originally announced as reprinting #s 14-18, has now been expanded to include #19 as well—but unfortunately, the price has increased by $5 as well.

• Zenescope gets a little less Grimm in March, with the release of their *Rudyard-Kipling*-inspired ***Grimm Fairy Tales Presents Jungle Book*** by *Mark L. Miller & Carlos Granda*, which chronicles the adventures of not one but *four* children lost in the jungle at a young age. As Zenescope explains, the catch here is that "each child is taken by a separate tribe of animals as a means to keep the peace between the species. It is a peace that will not last... Fifteen years later the children have now become young adults and each will have to face the destiny that awaits them..."

SPIDER-MAN

BY STAN LEE & LARRY LIEBER

IN ASGARD, HOME OF THE NORSE GODS...
THOR GOES TO THE WORLD OF MORTALS, DEFYING ODIN'S DECREE.
FOR THAT, HE'LL BE BANISHED FOREVER FROM THE REALM ETERNAL!

WHILE, ON EARTH...
NOT A CRIME IN SIGHT...NOT EVEN A JAYWALKER.
SO WHY'S MY SPIDER SENSE TINGLING LIKE A HOUSE AFIRE?
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 12-19

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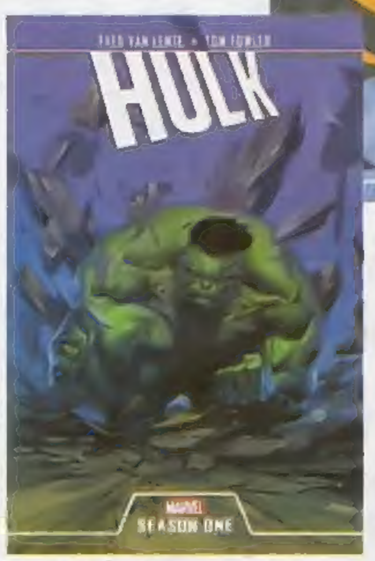
•*Stan Lee's* first Archie Comics project, ***Stan Lee's Mighty 7,*** is seeing print at last in March of 2012 (the project, which features Stan as not only a co-creator but also as a character, was first announced as being in development back in 2010, when it was announced as ***Stan Lee's Super Seven,*** but a name change was necessary to avoid a conflict with another company's property). Archie describes the book thus: When a crew of sinister, alien prisoners and their jailers are blasted across the galaxy, their ship lands smack dab in front of legendary comic book creator *Stan Lee*! What does this alien arrival mean for planet Earth?! Reality meets fantasy as the Mighty 7 journey begins!"



•Marvel has announced three more ***Season One*** original hardcover graphic novels, featuring streamlined, updated retellings of the characters' origins and early experiences. The new trio includes ***Ant-Man Season One*** by *Tom DeFalco & Horacio Domingues* (July); ***Hulk Season One*** by *Fred Van Lente & Tom Fowler* (Aug); and ***Doctor Strange Season One*** by *Greg Pak & Emma Rios* (September).

•IDW follows up their ***Bloom County*** comprehensive reprinting series with a 320-page single-volume collection of *Berkley Breathed's* ***Outland.*** This volume contains every ***Outland*** strip published, some never before collected in book form, and nearly all scanned from the original art provided by Breathed from his personal archives—that's more than 280 Sunday pages, all in fully remastered color, from September 3, 1989 through March 26, 1995. As an added bonus, this volume will include a selection of almost-never-seen strips from the extremely rare ***Academia Waltz***, the college strip Breathed did as a precursor to ***Bloom County.*** Look for it this spring.

•*Brian Bendis, Jason Aaron, & Frank Cho* join forces to launch the clash of Marvel's titans in March's ***Avengers Vs. X-Men #0,*** which sets up the crucial roles of the Scarlet Witch and Hope Summers in the coming storm. Of course, both sides have made up their minds as to which side each of them should ally with... but life can be unpredictable!

Back to Press

•***Animal Man #2 2nd Printing*** (NOV118004), featuring a recolored version of the original cover, in stores 1/18.

•***Uncanny X-Force #18 2nd Printing*** (NOV118069), featuring a variant cover by *Jerome Opena*, in stores 1/18.

•***Voltron #1 2nd Printing*** (OCT118102), in stores 1/4.

Coming Comics—DC in March

Metropolis has been captured! To save it, Superman must push the limits of his nascent powers as never before! Aboard the ship that has the city captive, The Man of Steel finds an important tool that may help him defeat Metalzero and his boss in ***Action Comics #7*** by *Grant Morrison , Rags Morales, & Rick Bryant*. And in the backup story by *Sholly Fisch & Brad Walker*, Steel must do what he can to protect those still in danger on the ground.

Jonah Hex tracks the kidnapper Thurston Moody to New Orleans in pursuit of his bounty. But he and Amadeus Arkham find New Orleans under attack by the August 7, a group of anti-immigrant, steampunk terrorists, in ***All-Star Western #7*** by *Justin Gray, Jimmy Palmiotti, & Moritat*. Only the renowned Nighthawk and Cinnamon stand between the terrorists and the immigrant workforce of this city.

Jeff Lemire, Travel Foreman, and pre-New-52 ***Animal Man*** artist *Steve Pugh* kick off "Animal vs. Man" in ***Animal Man #7.*** As the forces of the Rot continue to pursue The Bakers across the backwoods of America, Cliff and Buddy decide to get in some quality father-and-son time.

In ***Aquaman #7,*** *Geoff Johns, Ivan Reis, & Joe Prado* introduce a mysterious hunter who stalks and kills his prey, claiming their weapons and armor as trophies. A golden shield, a golden helm...and the final prize is the most powerful of all: a golden trident. The only problem is, he's going to have to go through Aquaman to get it.

One dark, tragic night, The Joker shattered the life of Barbara Gordon in the landmark story ***Batman: The Killing Joke.*** Now, in *Gail Simone, Ardian Syaf, & Vicente Cifuentes'* ***Batgirl #7,*** see a side of that story that has never before been told, as Batgirl faces the demons of her past! And if that's not enough, a deadly new gentleman killer, Grotesque, stalks the streets of Gotham City!

Star writer & designer *Chip Kidd* is joined by artist *Dave Taylor* for ***Batman: Death by Design Deluxe Edition HC,*** an original graphic novel that begins as Gotham City is undergoing one of the most expansive construction booms in its history. The most prestigious architects from across the globe have buildings in various phases of completion all over town. As chairman of the Gotham Landmarks Commission, Bruce Wayne has been a key part of this boom, which signals a golden age of architectural ingenuity for the city. And then the explosions begin. All manner of design-related malfunctions—faulty crane calculations, sturdy materials suddenly collapsing, software glitches, walkways giving way and more—cause casualties across the city. This bizarre string of seemingly random catastrophes threatens to bring down the whole construction industry. Fingers are pointed as Batman must somehow solve the problem and find whoever is behind it all.

Batman may have survived the Court of Owls' first strike (barely), but even as he recuperates, the Court is preparing to launch its most deadly and sweeping attack yet in ***Batman #7*** by *Scott Snyder, Greg Capullo, & Jonathan Glapion*. Plus: The secrets revealed in this issue will change Batman's world forever!

In *Peter Tomasi & Patrick Gleason's* ***Batman & Robin #7,*** Batman finally discovers NoBody's lair and must confront Robin and NoBody in an explosive, brutal battle that threatens the future of the Batman-Robin team.

Paul Jenkins, David Finch, & Richard Friend present the ultimate battle between Bane and Batman in ***Batman: The Dark Knight #7.*** Since the start of this best-selling series, Bane has been dragging The Dark Knight through a twisted terrain of horror and fear—but two can play that game! But what do The Flash and Poison Ivy have to do with all this?

Batwing comes to Gotham City in ***Batwing #7*** by *Judd Winick & Ben Oliver.* Batwing and Batman hope to stop the killer Massacre from assassinating the last two members of Africa's lost super-team, The Kingdom! Meanwhile, Nightwing, Batgirl, and Robin are already on the ground leading the search.

Fringe's *Joshua Jackson,* who plays Peter Bishop, is the writer of ***Beyond the Fringe #1,*** which explores key events that take place between seasons three and four of the show. The stakes are high as Jackson's character, Peter, undertakes a desperate, time-traveling adventure that Walter believes might save the world.

The Birds of Prey finally catch and unmask the elusive mind-controlling villain known as "Choke" in ***Birds of Prey #7*** by *Duane Swierczynski, Jesus Saiz, & Javier Pina*—only to discover that he's turned one of their own against them!

Silverback, the one-man tank, is coming for the alien scarab that grants Beetle his powers. But if Beetle can barely control those powers, will he finally embrace the scarab's true purpose and become the weapon destined to conquer Earth? That question is answered in ***Blue Beetle #7*** by *Tony Bedard, Ig Guara, & JP Mayer.*

Why did Nathaniel Adam sign up for Megala's experiment? How did he become

BETTER IDEA—I'LL GIVE YOU A NICKEL FOR YOURS.
I WAS JUST THINKING—
—THAT IT'S HIGH TIME WE MOVED FROM OUR APARTMENT!
!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 12-20
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Captain Atom? Do his powers have any limits? And what's the deal with those numbers? Find out in ***Captain Atom #7*** by *J.T.Krul & Freddie Williams II.*

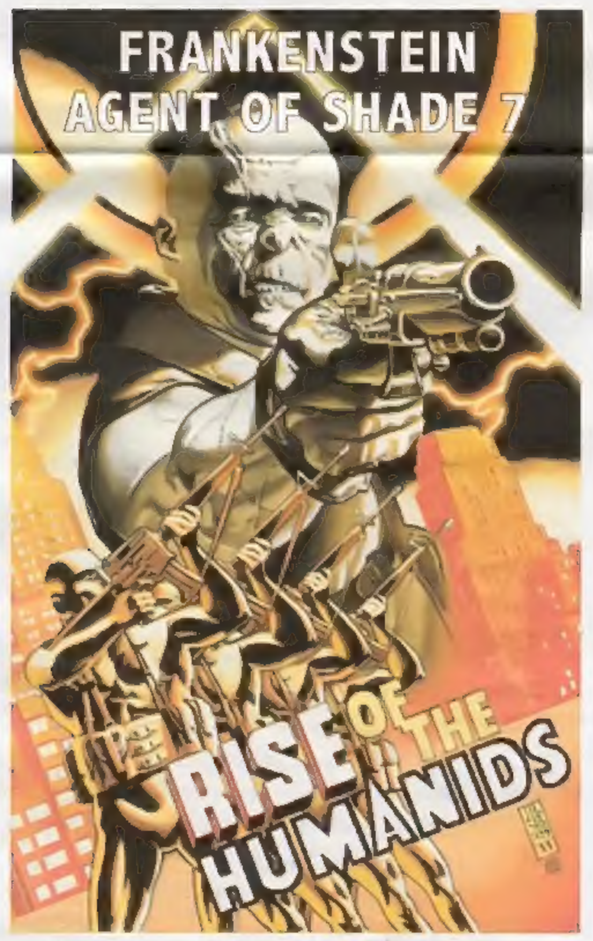
In the wake of her run-in with Batman and the loss of someone very dear to her, Catwoman turns over a new leaf in ***Catwoman #7*** by *Judd Winick & Guillem March.* With a new attitude, a new partner, and a new game plan, she embarks on a new journey: stealing hot cars.

What do you do when death wears the face of the one you loved? That's what June Robbins must deal with, as the one person who didn't survive last issue's crash, Ace, returns in a monstrous new form, determined to end the lives of June and the Challengers of the Unknown in ***DC Universe Presents #7*** by *Dan DiDio & Jerry Ordway.*

Deathstroke has fought to learn the identity of the person manipulating him from the shadows. Now, Slade will face this threat head-on in *Kyle Higgins, Joe Bennett, & Art Thibert's* ***Deathstroke #7*** as an important figure from his past returns with a vengeance. Everything we know about Deathstroke changes after this issue's unbelievable battle!

Batman uncovers the truth behind a string of underworld killings involving the Penguin's Iceberg Casino in ***Detective Comics #7*** by *Tony Daniel & Sandu Florea,* but time is running out! Is unimaginable terror about to strike on the floating gambling den?

Captain Cold is back in *Francis Manapul & Brian Buccellato's* ***Flash #7***– and he's more dangerous than ever! Seeking revenge on The Flash, he must convince the rest of the Rogues to reunite one last time. But what tore them apart before? And what did The Flash do to earn their deadly scorn? Find out here!



The siege on S.H.A.D.E. City comes to a bloody conclusion in ***Frankenstein, Agent of SHADE #7*** by *Jeff Lemire & Alberto Ponticelli,* and it may mean the end of the Creature Commandos! With the Hub under Humanid control and Nina's evil monsters staging a coup, S.H.A.D.E. headquarters is in total disarray. But nothing can prepare Frankenstein for the terrible secret that lies beneath it all!

New co-writer *Joe Harris* joins *Ethan Van Sciver,* who not only co-writes but also *illustrates* this issue, for ***The Fury of Firestorm: The Nuclear Men #7,*** which DC describes as "a white-hot jumping-on issue." Separated in an evolving game of international atomic brinkmanship, each Firestorm faces a world more dangerous than he ever imagined... while one gets a life-altering shock you'll never forget!

Green Arrow's gone looking for trouble, and he's found it—in triplicate—in ***Green Arrow #7*** by *Ann Nocenti & Harvey Talibao.* Three women who give new meaning to the term "drop dead gorgeous" have our hero outnumbered and outgunned! Collectively, they're called "Skylark," and they've been sent on a secret mission with Oliver Queen as its focus!

Geoff Johns, Doug Mahnke, & Christian Alamy launch "The Secret of the Indigo Tribe" in ***Green Lantern #7.*** The GL team of Hal Jordan and Sinestro must investigate a crime that leads them to the Indigo homeworld in deep space. And what they find there will not only shock them, but also change the way you look at Lantern lore!

In the aftermath of the bloody first arc of the series, John Stewart must bring the body of a fallen Lantern back to his family in ***Green Lantern Corps #7*** by *Peter Tomasi, Claude St. Aubin, & Scott Hanna.* But how can John tell them the truth: that he caused this Lantern's death!

Invictus has come to remake us all into his vision of perfection—he just needs to burn everything in his path first. In the New Guardians' most desperate hour, Red Lantern Bleez returns in ***Green Lantern: New Guardians #7*** by *Tony Bedard, Tyler Kirkham, & Batt*—but is even her rage a match for the wrath of a living god? All this and the origin of Invictus—and how it all ties back to Larfleeze!

Midnighter guest-stars in ***Grifter #7*** by *Nathan Edmondson, Scott Clark, & Dave Beaty* as a massive battle on treacherous ice slopes shows Grifter that he's in a world of heroes he cannot defeat and opens him up to new world-changing secrets as deadly as they are powerful.

While dealing with their complicated relationship, Hank and Dawn face an attack from a mysterious hunter who reveals a larger conspiracy involving the heroic duo in ***Hawk and Dove #7,*** which is both written *and* illustrated by *Rob Liefeld.*

Justice League jumps to the present day with #7, a special issue by *Geoff Johns* with guest artist *Gene Ha.* What has changed? Who has joined the team since? And why is Steve Trevor considered the team's greatest champion? This issue also launches ***The Curse of Shazam!*** backup feature by *Geoff Johns & Gary Frank,* which presents a new origin for Billy Batson's alter ego.

Straight off the shocking events of ***I, Vampire #6,*** vampires across the world have gone berserk, attacking anyone and everyone with a pulse in ***Justice League Dark #7*** by *Peter Milligan & Mikel Janin.* Fearing her apocalyptic vision of the future has come to pass, Madame Xanadu mobilizes the team to intervene. But everything the JL Dark members know about how to slay a vampire is useless, for the world has changed.

Picking up where ***Justice League Dark #7*** leaves off, ***I , Vampire #7*** finds Andrew Bennett in a place he never thought he'd reach during his countless decades walking the Earth. But his absence on Earth signals a deadly loss of order in the vampire hierarchy, as the savage attack on humanity he's long feared looks like its coming to pass.

New writer *Tom DeFalco* joins artist *Pete Woods* beginning with ***Legion Lost #7.*** The hulking member Tellus receives a distressing, telepathic cry for help from a woman being tortured. So why does the Legion refuse to come to the rescue?

Marooned in a lake of fire, Element Lad, Chemical Kid and Sun Boy face an ecological disaster of 31st-century proportions in *Paul Levitz & Francis Portela's* ***Legion of Super-Heroes #17.*** And Dragonwing's got troubles of her own—with her sister's claws at her throat!

Full-on war breaks out across the United Planets in *Paul Levitz, Chris Batista, & Marc Deering's* ***Legion: Secret Origin #6.*** But there is hope, as the Legionnaires have finally come together to confront the evil behind the attacks on their homeworlds. Will it be in time, and do they have enough power on their own to survive their darkest hour?

The team barely has time to celebrate their succes in defeating the Signal Men and saving Earth from certain annihilation when a new threat makes itself known, forever altering the team and sending it in a bold, new and unexpected direction in ***Justice League International #7*** by *Dan Jurgens, Aaron Lopresti, & Matt Ryan.*

Marv Wolfman reimagines his classic adventure series for the new millennium with the debut of ***Night Force #1,*** illustrated by *Tom Mandrake.* As the tale begins, there's a conspiracy under way that's been going on for hundreds of years. One determined cop has unknowingly scratched the surface and suddenly finds himself summoned to Wintersgate Manor. But this chilling menace may prove to be too big even for Baron Winters.

Nightwing vs. Saiko! The truth about Haly's Circus! A tribute show for the Flying Graysons! They're all here in ***Nightwing #7*** by *Kyle Higgins, Eddy Barrows, & Paulo Siqueira.* Of course, there's no way they could be related...right?

In *Dan DiDio, Keith Giffen, & Scott Koblish's* ***OMAC #7,*** Kevin Kho wakes to find himself trapped inside the Toledo Zoo and unable to "Omactivate!" But things turn really weird when he discovers the animals can talk—and they all live in fear of the horrific taskmaster known as Warden Gaym.

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Red Hood is convinced that the super assassin Essence set him up in his battle against the Untitled...and Arsenal and Starfire are prepared to help him get some payback in ***Red Hood and the Outlaws #7*** by *Scott Lobdell & Kenneth Rocafort.*

It's Green Lantern Guy Gardner vs. the first Red Lantern of Earth in ***Red Lanterns #7*** by *Peter Milligan, Ed Benes, & Rob Hunter.* Rancorr—once the human John Moore—was born in the fires of heartbreak and rage, but why are his powers work unlike any other Red Lantern's? And why will he be such an important player in the upcoming Red Lantern civil war?

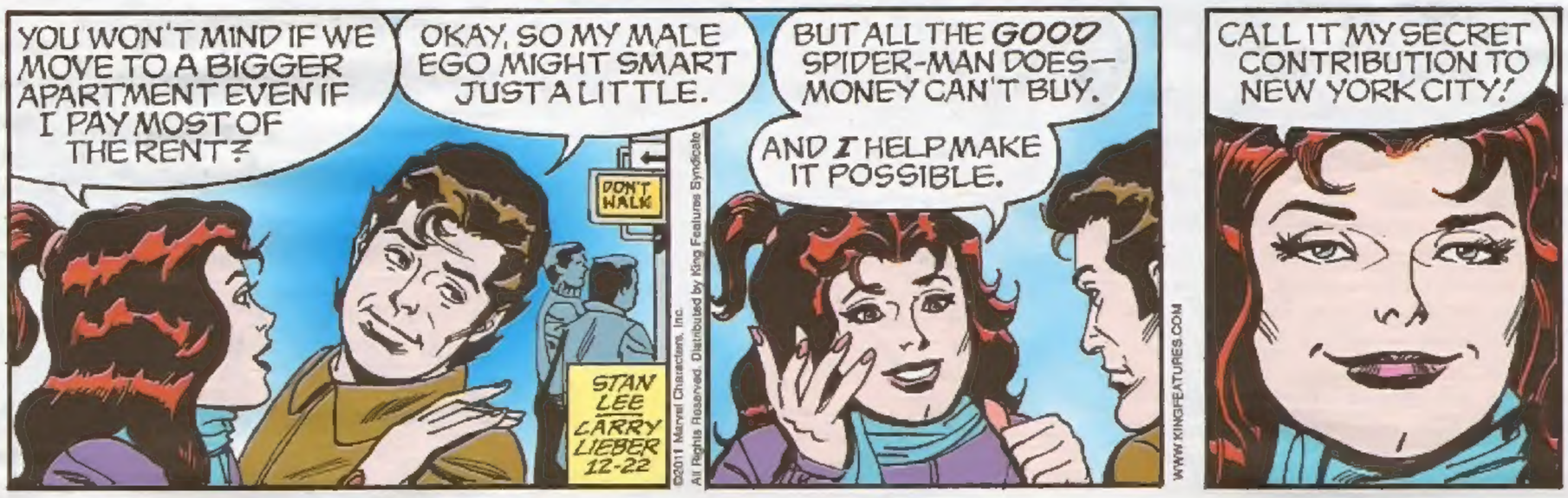
Mitch Shelley was able to escape Arkham, but now Gotham City's S.W.A.T. team is on his tail in ***Resurrection Man #7*** by *Dan Abnett, Andy Lanning, & Fernando Dagnino.* And that's not the only thing chasing after him…

Hawkman battles an army of living corpses raised from the dead by the power of the Mortis Orb in ***The Savage Hawkman #7*** by *Tony Daniel, James Bonny, & Philip Tan...* and it will take a team-up with New York City's own Static to stop this undead threat!

In ***Static Shock #7,*** *Marc Bernardin, Scott McDaniel, & Andy Owens* introduce the intangible Phayze, who's out to steal tech that could change the world. How can Static defeat a villain he can't touch?

When a scientific experiment tears a hole in the barrier between dimensions, gravity miners from a forbidden universe invade our world in ***Stormwatch #7*** by *Paul Jenkins & Miguel Sepulveda.* Can Stormwatch—with their ranks depleted after the cataclysmic events of last issue—find a way to repel alien excavators that shred our reality with every touch?

Hunted through the streets of Gotham City, her former teammates on the Suicide Squad in relentless pursuit—Harley Quinn is out of friends, out of luck and out of time. Will Harley find The Joker before the Squad finds her? Find out in ***Suicide Squad #7*** by *Adam Glass & Clayton Henry,* which pits Harley vs. the Suicide Squad in a tale that also reveals the details of Harley's New 52 origins.


YOU WON'T MIND IF WE MOVE TO A BIGGER APARTMENT EVEN IF I PAY MOST OF THE RENT?
OKAY, SO MY MALE EGO MIGHT SMART JUST A LITTLE.
DON'T WALK
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COVER STORY

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FAIREST #1
DC Comics / Vertigo
Bill Willingham presents a new series starring the female *Fables*. Balancing horror, humor and adventure, *Fairest* explores the secret histories of Sleeping Beauty, Rapunzel, Cinderella, The Snow Queen, Thumbelina, Snow White, Rose Red and more!

SAGA #1
Dark Horse Comics
Y: The Last Man writer Brian K. Vaughan returns to comics with red-hot artist Fiona Staples for *Saga*, an all-new ongoing series featuring a mix of *Star Wars*-style action mixed with *Game of Thrones*-esque drama in an original sci-fi/fantasy epic for mature readers!

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Superboy's come back to N.O.W.H.E.R.E. with vengeance on his mind in ***Superboy #7*** by *Scott Lobdell, R.B. Silva, & Rob Lean*—but Rose Wilson is waiting for him. Right from the start, she was the one meant to bring him down when he went out of control—and this fight is going to be out of control!

It's Supergirl versus the Worldkillers in ***Supergirl #7*** by *Michael Green, Mike Johnson, & Mahmud Asrar*! But who are they, and where did they come from? And what is their connection to Krypton?

The new creative team of *Keith Giffen, Dan Jurgens, & Jesus Merino* debuts in ***Superman #7,*** and they bring with them new love interests, new roommates, and a new foe: the wicked Helspont! What does this monster want with Superman, and how does it all connect to the Daemonites?

Moss fills lungs. Leaves scrape across skin and wood against bone. A Swamp Thing is rising in The Green's hour of darkest need…but is Alec Holland a part of it? Or is he just bleeding out in a ditch? And as Alec falls, a horrible champion is taking the throne of the Bone Kingdom at Sethe's right hand in ***Swamp Thing #7*** by *Scott Snyder & Yanick Paquette.*

Are the Teen Titans ready to stage an assault on N.O.W.H.E.R.E.? No way! But as Red Robin explains to the rest of his team, they'll have to rally to save the Superboy from certain death in ***Teen Titans #7*** by *Scott Lobdell, Brett Booth, & Norm Rapmund.*

Will the truth of the Daemonite hybrids force Voodoo to turn on her masters or will she finally succumb to her dark side? Find out in ***Voodoo #7*** by *Josh Williamson & Sami Basri.*

Remember the myth of Orpheus? Wonder Woman certainly does! And we hope she's learned its lessons well, because someone she dearly loves is in Hell's clutches—which is why she's heading there on a rescue mission in ***Wonder Woman #7*** by *Brian Azzarello & Cliff Chiang.*

DC collected editions (advance solicited for April and May release) include:

- ***Batman Volume 1: The Court of Owls HC,*** collecting ***Detective Comics #s 1-6*** by *Scott Snyder, Greg Capullo, & Jonathan Glapion.*
- ***Batman: Gotham Shall Be Judged TP,*** collecting ***Azrael #s 14-18, Batman #s 708-709, Red Robin #22,*** and ***Gotham City Sirens #22.***
- ***Batman: Knightfall Volume 1 TP (New Edition),*** a 640-page tome that includes chapters never before reprinted.
- ***Batman: No Man's Land Volume 2 TP (New Edition),*** a 512-page expanded version of the second installment of the ***No Man's Land*** epic that includes several chapters never before reprinted.
- ***Batman: Venom TP (New Edition),*** collecting the tale that introduced the strength-enhancing drug Venom... the drug responsible for Bane.
- ***Gears of War Volume 2 TP,*** collecting ***Gears of War #s 7-13.***
- ***Gotham Central Book Four: Corrigan TP,*** collecting ***Gotham Central #s 32-40.***
- ***Green Lantern Volume 1: Sinestro HC,*** collecting *Geoff Johns, Doug Mahnke, & Christian Alamy's* ***Green Lantern #s 1-6.***
- ***Green Lantern Archives Volume 7,*** collecting ***Green Lantern #s 48-57*** by *John Broome, Gardner Fox, Gil Kane, & Sid Greene.*
- ***Hitman Volume 6: For Tomorrow TP,*** collecting ***Hitman #s 37-50.***
- ***Jack Kirby's Fourth World Omnibus Volume 2 TP,*** collecting ***New Gods #s 4-6, Forever People #s 4-6, Superman's Pal Jimmy Olsen #s 141-145,*** and ***Mister Miracle #s 4-6.***
- ***Justice League Volume 1: Origin HC,*** collecting the first six-issue arc by *Geoff Johns, Jim Lee, & Scott Williams.*
- ***Legion of Super-Heroes: When Evil Calls TP,*** collecting ***Legion of Super-Heroes #s 11-16, Adventure #s*** 523-529, and ***Legion of Super-Villains #1.***
- ***Secret Society of Super-Villains Volume 2 HC,*** collecting 208 pages of super-villain perfidy from ***Secret Society of Super-Villains #s 11-15, DC Special #27, DC Special Series #6, Superteam Family #s 13-14, Justice League of America #s 166-167,*** and a story from ***Cancelled Comics Cavalcade #2.***

- ***Showcase Presents All-Star Squadron Volume 1 TP,*** collecting ***Justice League of America #193*** and ***All-Star Squadron #s 1-18.***
- ***Superman: Secrets of the Fortress of Solitude TP,*** collecting stories from ***Superman #17, Action #s 241 & 261, Action Annual #s 2 & 10, Superman: The Man of Steel #100,*** and ***DC Special Series #26*** (previously available only in tabloid format).
- ***Teen Titans: Prime of Life TP,*** collecting ***Teen Titans #s 93-100.***
- ***Wonder Woman Volume 1: Blood HC,*** collecting *Brian Azzarello & Cliff Chiang's* ***Wonder Woman #s 1-6.***

Coming Comics—Vertigo in March

Selwyn Sefu Hinds, Denys Cowan, & John Floyd invite readers to explore the supernatural side of New Orleans in ***Dominique Laveau: Voodoo Child #1,*** the story of a half-breed, outcast, and heir to the Voodoo Queenship of New Orleans... *if* she can live long enough to claim her birthright. New Orleans is the most haunted city in America: a town of centuries-old ghosts and newly drowned spirits; where vampires, voodoo spirits and loups-garous make their home. Ruling over this all are the powerful Voodoo Queens, whose influence stretches

into politics, business and crime as they maintain a delicate balance between the mortal and supernatural worlds. But in the aftermath of Katrina, all that has changed, for someone or something has murdered the Voodoo Queen and most of her court. The number one suspect is Dominique Laveau, a grad student at Tulane who is about to discover that her entire life has been a lie. Now Dominique must forge alliances with those out to kill her while seeking to uncover the truth behind the royal murders, as she is ultimately forced to deal with a destiny she could never have imagined.

The New Deadwardians #1 may be another vampire/zombie comic, but the folks at Vertigo promise that this *Dan Abnett-IN] Culbard* series is different from the rest. In this version of post-Victorian England, nearly everyone of the upper classes has voluntarily become a vampire to escape the lower classes ,who are all

zombies. Into this simmering cauldron is thrust Chief Inspector George Suttle, a lonely detective who's got the slowest beat in London: investigating murders in a world where everyone is already dead!

But when the body of a young aristocrat washes up on the banks of the Thames, Suttle's quest for the truth will take him from the darkest sewers to the gleaming halls of power.

Arcadia Alvarado, the leading Democratic candidate for President of the United States, says she was "abducted by aliens." As the Mexican-American Governor of New Mexico, she's dealing with immigration, budget cuts and an alcoholic ex. She's about to toss her hat into the ring as a candidate for President in the most volatile political climate ever.

But then...a lonely road and a nightmarish encounter have left her with terrible, half-glimpsed memories. And now she has to become President. To expose the truth—and maybe, to save the world. Follow her journey in ***Saucer Country,*** a dark thriller by *Paul Cornell & Ryan Kelly* that blends UFO lore and alien abduction with political intrigue.

Bill Willingham takes a closer look at the female Fables characters in ***Fairest,*** illustrated by *Phil Jimenez & Andy Lanning* that focuses on the secret histories of Sleeping Beauty, Rapunzel, Cinderella, The Snow Queen, Thumbelina, Snow White, Rose Red and others.

Vertigo collected editions (advance solicited by April and May release) include:

- ***Aaron & Ahmed TP,*** a softcover edition of the graphic noel by *Jay Cantor & James Romberger.*
- ***Cinderella: Fables Are Forever TP,*** collecting the *Chris Roberson-Shawn McManus* miniseries.
- ***Fables Deluxe Edition Book Five HC,*** collecting ***Fables #s 34-45.***
- ***Saga of the Swamp Thing Book One TP,*** collecting ***Swamp Thing #s 20-27*** by *Alan Moore, Steve Bissette, John Totleben, & Dan Day.*

I WAS SO AFRAID YOU'D FEEL THREATENED BY MY NEW SALARY.
RIGHT NOW, MJ, I FEEL LIKE NOTHING COULD THREATEN ME.
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 12-23
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Coming from DC Direct

The Riddlee, Catwoman, Batman (Detective Mode Variant), Hush, and ***Jervis Tetch: The Mad Hatter*** are featured in DC Direct's ***Batman: Arkham City Series 2 Action Figures,*** based on the blockbuster videogame from Warner Bros. Interactive Entertainment. (April)

DC's Ame-Comi line continues with the release of the ***Ame-Comi Heroine Series Raven (Demon Daughter Variant) PVC Figure*** and ***Ame-Comi Heroine Series Raven (Angel of Azarath Variant) PVC Figure,*** both designed by *Jim Fletcher* and sculpted by *Sam Greenwell.* (April)

Sam Kieth's distinctive take on the Dark Knight is the inspiration for the ***Batman Black and White by Sam Kieth Statue,*** sculpted by *Jonathan Matthews.* (March)

Coming Comics—Image in March

Extreme's zombie-black op-superheroes return in ***Bloodstrike #26*** (picking up where the old Extreme numbering left off) by *Tim Seeley & Franchesco Gaston.* Cabbot Stone is the last unliving Bloodstrike agent, an unstoppable weapon in America's war on terror! But being dead is a hell of way to make a living, and Cabbot is losing his faith. Will his latest mission be his last?

The new creative team of *David Hine & Jeremy Haun* make their debut in ***The Darkness #101.*** On the surface, Jackie Estacado has everything he ever wanted—control of the Darkness, a successful career, and happy family life. Only his desire to make his life truly perfect will be his undoing.

Twenty years ago, the first-ever superheroes debuted without warning and forever altered our global culture! Now, the generation born in their wake fight to claim their place in a world evolved beyond them in ***Hell Yeah #1*** by *Joe Keatinge & Andre Szymanowicz.* The first issue packs in a full 32 pages of story (no ads!) for only $S2.99.

Cryptids. Aliens. Monsters. What if all the world's bizarre secrets were real? Their existence would be debunked by a reality TV show! Hoax Hunters is that show, publicly disproving all variety of lore. But their real goal is the opposite: to cover up the world's dark corners. Watch them in action in ***Hoax Hunters #0*** by *Michael Moeci, Steve Seeley, & J.M. Ringuet.*

What if the research and development department created to produce the first atomic bomb was a front for a series of other, more unusual, programs? What if the union of a generation's brightest minds was not a signal for optimism, but foreboding? What if everything... went wrong?All those what-ifs are answered by *Jonathan Hickman & Nick Pitarra* in ***The Manhattan Projects,*** an all-new ongoing series.

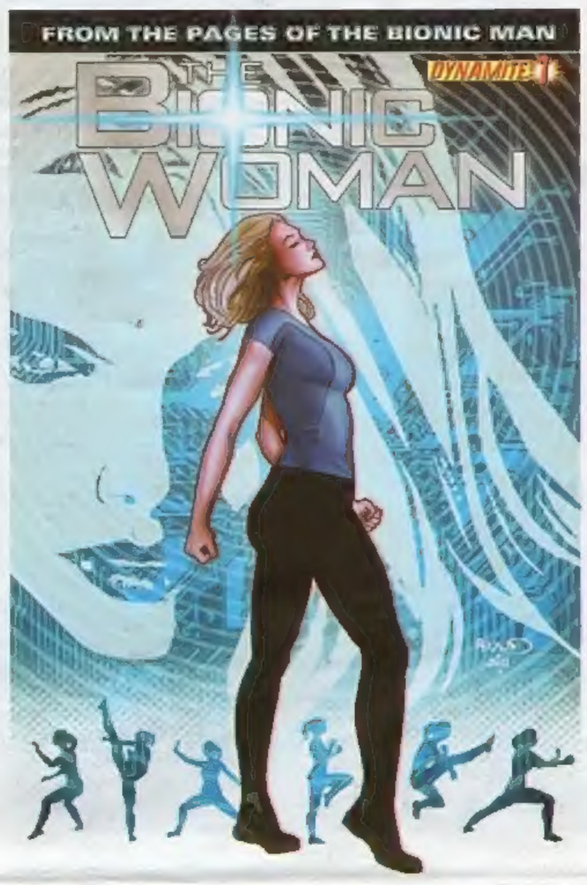
Think human zombies are bad? Think how much worse the world would be if *every* living creature became zombified. That's the problem that Officer Red Prospero must confront in ***Rebel Blood #1*** by *Alex Link & Riley Rossmo.*

Y—The Last Man writer *Brian K. Vaughan* returns to comics this spring, joined by artist *Fiona Staples* as they launch the all-new ongoing series ***Saga,*** which blends ***Star Wars***-style action with ***Game of Thrones***-level intrigue and drama. The series begins with a double-sized first issue—complete with a single-sized price, making it a bargain indeed!—that follows new parents Marko and Alana as they risk everything to raise their child amidst a never-ending galactic war.

The Walking Dead: Cutting Room Floor HC offers readers a rare look behind the creative curtain, presenting never-before-seen ***Walking Dead*** plots by *Robert Kirkman,* many shot from his original hand-written work for the early issues. See what plot lines were left on the cutting room floor and get an in-depth look at how the series came together. This collection includes commentaries on Kirkman's original plots with and more.

Image collected editions include:

- ***'68 Volume 1: Better Run Through the Jungle TP,*** collecting the first four-issue story arc as well as the original oneshot, now recolored and relettered.
- ***The Darkness: Accursed Volume 7 TP,*** collecting ***The Darkness #s 96-100.***
- ***The Last of the Greats Volume 1 TP,*** collecting ***Last of the Greats #s 1-5.***
- ***Magdalena Volume 2 TP,*** collecting ***Magdalena #s 7-12.***
- ***Marksmen Volume 1 TP,*** collecting ***Marksmen #s 1-6.***
- ***Moriarty Volume 2: The Lazarus Tree TP,*** collecting ***Moriarty #s 5-9.***
- ***Savage Dragon Ultimate Collection Volume 1 HC,*** collecting the expanded five-issue miniseries and ***Savage Dragon #s 1-7,*** plus covers, sketches and behind the scenes material.
- ***Spawn: Origins Volume 14 TP,*** collecting ***Spawn #s 81-86.***
- ***Tellos Colossal HC Volume 2,*** an oversized collection of ***Tellos #s 1-3, Maiden Voyage, The Last Heist,*** and ***Sons and Moons.***



Coming Comics—Dynamite in March

Paris is the city of love? Not anymore... not since Jaime Sommers, the Bionic Woman, came to town hot on the trail of the Mission, a collection of insanely high-priced surgeons who've been murdering OSI's bionic prototypes in order to provide new life for billionaire patients. But while the Bionic Woman is hunting the Mission, their #1 hunter is after her! Witness the most dangerous game in ***The Bionic Woman #1*** by *Paul Tobin & Leno Carvalho.*

The rebellious Prince Barin has Flash Gordon in his clutches, and that may spell death... unless the intrepid Earthman defeats his own ally, Prince Thun of the Lion Men of Mongo. Meanwhile, on Earth, three fugitives from Mongo have their sights set on their objective, with the Third Reich squarely in their crosshairs in *Eric Trautmann & Daniel*

Indro's ***Flash Gordon: Zeitgeist #5.***

Dan Brereton, best known for his stunning painted art, makes his Vampi writing debut with ***Vampirella: The Red Room #1,*** which features art by *Jean Diaz.* The tale follows Vampirella and a colorful, driven lawman as they track vampires on a blood-letting rampage through rural Arkansas to the Red Room, an underground circuit where high rollers stage mortals vs. monster death matches.

Vampirella's long-time adversary, the sinister Von Kreist, returns in ***Vampirella #17*** by *Eric Trautmann & Jose Malaga.* The Vatican's covert monster-hunter group, "Cestus Dei" has arrived to control the scene through any means necessary. But will they see Vampirella as friend...or foe?

With Vampirella trapped in Dracula's shifting past, Jack Halloran, is left to deal with the machinations of his modern-day incarnation, the mysterious and deadly Dragunsun, in ***Vampirella Vs Dracula #3*** by *Joe Harris & Ivan Rodriguez.* But when changes to the eternal narrative first chronicled by *Bram Stoker* ripple through the present, each of the characters affected, in all the timelines they cross, must adjust, adapt and reorient themselves if they wish to survive.

Dynamite collected editions include:

- ***The Boys Volume 10: Butcher, Baker, Candlestickmaker TP,*** collecting the six-part miniseries by *Garth Ennis & Darick Robertson.*
- ***Dark Shadows Volume 1 TP,*** collecting ***Dark Shadows #s 1-4.***
- ***George R.R. Martin's A Game of Thrones: The Graphic Novel Volume 1 HC,*** collecting the first 6 issues of the 24-issue series.
- ***Vampirella & The Scarlet Legion TP,*** collecting the five-part miniseries.

SO IT'S SETTLED, THEN—WE'LL START LOOKING FOR A NEW PLACE.
LOOK! A SHOOTING STAR!
BUT IT'S WASTED ON ME.
I'VE NOTHING LEFT TO WISH FOR!
STAN LEE
LARRY LIEBER
12-24
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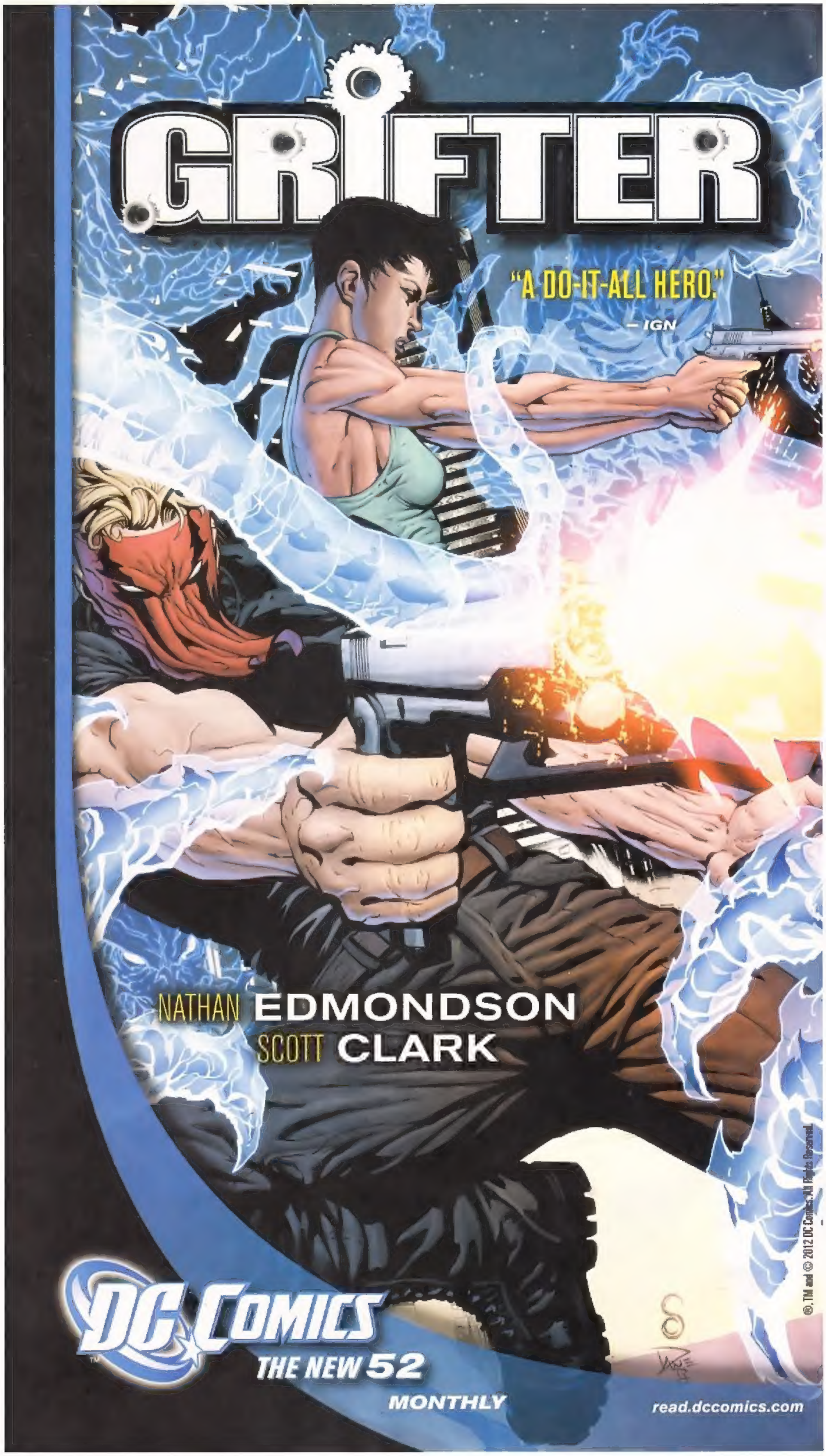
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